

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. A method for transmitting non-real time traffic in a connection oriented communications network, the network comprising a network core which includes a core source and a core destination, the core source and the core destination having a path therebetween, the path having one of a plurality of classes of transmission service, the non-real time traffic being received at the core source from a plurality of connections and each of the plurality of connections having one of the plurality of classes of transmission service, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) at the core source, aggregating the non-real time traffic received from said plurality of connections onto the path, the non-real time traffic being transmitted on the path without regard to which of the plurality of connections the non-real time traffic is associated and without regard to the class of transmission service of such plurality of connections;
- (b) at the core destination, segregating the non-real time traffic so transmitted on the path according to which of the plurality of connections the non-real time traffic is associated; and

wherein at least two of the plurality of connections do not respectively have a same class of transmission service, wherein flow control is applied between the core source and the core destination to thereby regulate the rate of transmission of the non-real time traffic along the path, the flow control terminating at said core source and at said core destination, and wherein the path is provisioned with a guaranteed transmission bandwidth.

Please cancel Claims 15-24.

Please amend Claim 25 as follow:

25. A connection oriented communications network, the communications network comprising a network core wherein traffic entering the network core is aggregated from a plurality of connections onto paths within the network core and wherein traffic exiting the network core is segregated from said paths onto connections outside the network core, the traffic comprising real time traffic and non-real time traffic, the non-real time traffic which enters the network core and is aggregated onto a path is received from connections that each have one of a plurality of classes of transmission service such that at least two connections have classes of transmission service different from each other, the real time traffic and the non-real time traffic each being aggregated onto respective real time paths and non-real time paths, each of the non-real time paths having one of the plurality of classes of transmission service, each of the non-real time paths is provisioned with a guaranteed transmission bandwidth, the real time traffic on each real time path being transmitted from a corresponding core source to a corresponding core destination according to a first class of path transmission service and the non-real time traffic on each non-real time path being transmitted from a corresponding core source to a corresponding core destination according to a second class of path transmission service, and wherein flow control is applied between the core source and the core destination corresponding to each non-real time path to thereby regulate the rate of transmission of the non-real time traffic along each said non-real time path, the flow control terminating at said core source and at said core destination corresponding to each non-real time path.